

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-13, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-38, and 41-45 are pending. In an office action dated April 19, 2005, the Examiner noted the allowability of a number of dependent claims. In a previous response, the Applicant made amendments that incorporated the content of the allowable dependent claims into their respective base claims. The Examiner has reconsidered and has rejected all pending claims.

Each of the pending independent claims, as currently amended, recites, in some fashion, a determination of graphics that are to be preprocessed and reused based on a criterion. That criterion is selected from (1) whether a given graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, (2) whether the given graphic is less than an entire page, and (3) whether the given graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed. Eliminated from this list is the criterion of whether a manual selection has been made – the subject of the Examiner's reconsideration.

It is noted that the Examiner has not asserted that any reference or combination of references teaches determining graphics that are to be preprocessed and reused based on one of the reduced set of possible criteria now listed in each independent claim. In fact, the Examiner noted the allowability of claims reciting such limitations in the Office Action mailed April 19, 2005.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102: The Examiner rejected Claims 13, 38, and 43 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,529,214 issued to Chase.

Claim 13 is directed to a method for fast processing of graphics for printing and, as amended, recites the following.

1. determining graphics that are to be preprocessed and reused based on a criterion selected from whether a given graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the given graphic is less than an entire page, and whether the given graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed;
2. preprocessing the determined graphics; and

3. storing the preprocessed graphics.

Chase does not teach or suggest a method that includes determining graphics that are to be preprocessed and reused based on a criterion selected from whether a given graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the given graphic is less than an entire page, and whether the given graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed.

For at least this reason, Claim 13 is patentable over Chase as are Claims 19 and 20 due at least in part to their dependence from Claim 13.

Claim 38 is directed to a method for fast processing of graphics for printing in a plurality of print jobs and, as amended, recites the following.

1. determining graphics that are to be preprocessed in the plurality of print jobs based on a criterion selected from whether a given graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the given graphic is less than an entire page, and whether the given graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed;
2. preprocessing the determined graphics;
3. storing the preprocessed graphics;
4. retrieving selected preprocessed graphics; and
5. formulating a plurality of print jobs that includes the preprocessed graphics.

As with Claim 13, Chase does not teach or suggest a method that includes determining graphics that are to be preprocessed and reused based on a criterion selected from whether a given graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the given graphic is less than an entire page, and whether the given graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed.

For at least this reason, Claim 38 is patentable over Chase.

Claim 43 is directed to a program product for fast processing of graphics for printing comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable code for

causing a system to perform the method of Claim 13. For at least the same reasons Claim 13 is patentable, so are Claim 43 and Claims 44-45 which depend from Claim 43.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 21, 23, 26, 33, 34, 36, 41, 42, and 44 as being unpatentable over USPN 5,949,438 issued to Cyman.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for printing and, as amended, recites the following.

1. receiving a print designation to print a document;
2. receiving a description of graphics contained in the document;
3. obtaining one of the graphics;
4. determining if a preprocessed form of the graphic is available for reuse, and if so, retrieving the processed data therefor from preprocessed graphics storage, otherwise processing the graphic;
5. if the preprocessed form of the graphic is not available for reuse, then determining if the newly processed graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then storing the newly processed graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed, and whether the graphic is less than an entire page; and
6. formulating a print job

Cyman does not teach or suggest a method that includes determining if the newly processed graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then storing the newly processed graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the

graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed, and whether the graphic is less than an entire page.

For at least this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Cyman as are claims 8-12 due at least in part to their dependence from Claim 1.

Claim 21 is directed to a system capable of implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so is Claim 21.

Claim 23 is directed to a program product for printing comprising a computer readable medium having program code for causing a printer to perform the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so is Claim 23.

Claim 26 is directed to a method for printing and, as amended, recites the following.

1. receiving a print designation to print a plurality of documents;
2. receiving a description of graphics contained in the each of the plurality of documents;
3. for each of a plurality of the graphics in the plurality of documents,
 - a. obtaining the graphic;
 - b. determining if a preprocessed form of the obtained graphic has been is available for reuse, and if so, retrieving the processed data therefor from preprocessed graphics storage, otherwise processing the graphic; and
 - c. if the preprocessed form of the graphic is not available for reuse, then determining if the newly processed graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then storing the newly processed graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the graphic is repeated across the plurality of documents to be printed, and whether the graphic is less than an entire page.

As with Claim 1, Cyman does not teach or suggest a method that includes determining if the newly processed graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then storing the newly processed graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the graphic is repeated across the plurality of documents to be printed. For at least this reason, Claim 26 is patentable over Cyman as are Claims 33-37 due at least in part to their dependence from Claim 26.

Claim 41 is directed to system for printing comprising and, as amended recites the following.

1. a component for receiving a print designation to print a plurality of documents;
2. a component for receiving a description of graphics contained in the each of the plurality of documents;
3. a component for obtaining the graphic for each of a plurality of the graphics in the plurality of documents;
4. a component for determining if a preprocessed form of each of the obtained graphics has been is available for reuse, and if so, retrieving the processed data therefor from preprocessed graphics storage;
5. a component for, if it is determined that a preprocessed form of a particular graphic is not available for reuse, determining if a processed form of the particular graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then processing and storing the particular graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the particular graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the particular graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed, whether the particular graphic is less than an entire page; and
6. a component for formulating a print job.

As with Claim 1, Cyman does not teach or suggest a system that includes a component capable of determining if a processed form of the particular graphic should be stored in preprocessed graphics storage based on a criterion and if so, then processing and storing the particular graphic in the preprocessed graphics storage, wherein the criterion is selected from whether the particular graphic is repeated more than a predetermined number of times, whether the particular graphic is repeated across a plurality of documents to be printed, and whether the particular graphic is less than an entire page. For at least this reason, Claim 41 is patentable over Cyman.

Claim 42 is directed to a program product for printing comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable code for causing a system to perform the method of Claim 26. For at least the same reasons Claim 26 is patentable over Cyman, so are Claim 42 and Claim 44 which depends from Claim 42.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 19, 20, and 45 over Chase in view of USPN 5,594,860 issued to Gauthier. Claims 19 and 20 depend from Claim 13 while Claim 45 depends from Claim 43. For at least the same reasons Claims 13 and 43 are patentable, so are Claims 19, 20, and 45.

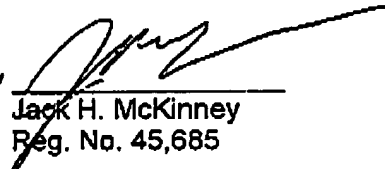
CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 35 over Cyman in view of USPN 6,721,846 issued to Mund. Claim 10 depends from Claim 1 while Claim 35 depends from Claim 26. For at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 26 are patentable, so are Claims 10 and 35.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 12 and 37 over Cyman in view of US Pub 2002/0059621 issued to Thomas. Claim 11 depends from Claim 1 while Claim 37 depends from Claim 26. For at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 26 are patentable, so are Claims 12 and 37.

CONCLUSION: Claims 1, 8-13, 19-21, 23, 26, 33-38, and 41-45 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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